

# Programmatic Permit Guidance

## Ferry Terminal Washing, Cleaning, & Marine Growth Removal

General HPA GH-D9448-01, Appendix F

General NPDES WA-0039039, Section S1.B

This guidance will help you interpret and understand the roles and responsibilities for complying with programmatic permits and exemptions for **ferry terminal/transfer span washing, cleaning, and marine growth removal**. You must read the permits prior to conducting work. Only familiarity with the permits will ensure your activities maintain compliance. The permits and other referenced documents are available for download at WSDOT's programmatic permit website <http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/environment/Programmatics/default.htm>.

### Programmatic permits and exemptions

- General Hydraulic Project Approval GH-D9448-01, Appendix F
- General NPDES WA-0039039, Section S1.B

### Work covered:

The GHPA and NPDES permits allow routine ferry terminal cleaning and washing. Wash water can be discharged to state waters without a filter if dry cleaning is done before washing.

### Work not covered:

The GHPA and NPDES permits do not allow high-pressure paint-prep washing (covered in appendix F), work below the Ordinary High Water Line (OHWL), or work that affects the bed of state waters.

### When and how often work is allowed:

Washing is limited to times when the water is at least 5 feet deep under the part of the structure being washed. If the project will shade aquatic plants for longer than 72 hours, then the shading part of the work shall occur between October 1 and April 30. There are no restrictions as to how often work can be conducted, so long as the 3-day pre-project notification requirement is met. However, maintenance washing is generally scheduled in advance and occurs no more than once per year. See GHPA appendix F for timing restrictions associated with the use of a temporary work platform.

### **Work restrictions:**

Appendix F and S1.B specify restrictions and required practices that minimize pollutants entering the water and the disturbance of vegetation. Notable requirements include the following:

- Dry clean (scrape, sweep, or vacuum) before washing. This includes flaking paint. Residual grease must be removed with degreaser on absorbent-material. (Exercise discretion when cleaning areas where worker safety may be compromised. Areas of the bridge that cannot be safely dry cleaned should be flushed.)
- Use the minimum pressure that will clean the ferry and prevent paint chips from entering state waters. That is, avoid flaking paint and lower the pressure if needed to prevent the removal of bonded paint. The equipment that WSDOT typically uses, such as hoses attached to water trucks, mains and hydrants, do not carry pressures capable of removing bonded paint.
- Plug bridge drains before washing.
- Use clean wash water with no detergents or other additives.

### **Monitoring Requirements:**

Monitoring and evaluation of the water discharged during washing is required, as described in Section S2 of the NPDES Waste Discharge Permit (WA-0039039). The permit requires that at least one ferry terminal wash project be monitored each year. Detailed monitoring protocols are provided as Appendix A to this Permit Guidance. This monitoring should be performed by a consultant under subcontract to the prime contractor responsible for paint-prep operations. **Contact Gregor Myhr to identify whether monitoring is required.**

### **Permit questions and monitoring/report submittals**

Please contact:

**Gregor Myhr** (360) 705-7487  
Permit Program Manager  
WSDOT, Environmental Services Office  
PO Box 47331, Olympia WA 98504-7331

### **Reporting requirements:**

Complete and accurate reporting of all work covered by this permit is a legal requirement.

#### **Pre-project notification to WDFW & Ecology**

The WDFW Regional Habitat Program Manager (RHPM) must be notified at least three days before starting work, by letter or fax. The RHPM contact list is available at the programmatic permit website (click on the *documents referenced in permits* quick link). Information that must be included in the notification is found in Appendix F and section S3.A of the permits. Notification shall include:

- Agency Name, contact person, and telephone number
- Type of Activity
- Waterbody Name
- Ferry Terminal Location
- Starting date and estimated ending date for work

In accordance with Section S3.A1 of the NPDES permit, Ecology does not require pre-project notification for ferry terminal maintenance cleaning and washing.

**Reporting a completed project to ESO**

Projects covered by this permit must submit a Programmatic Permit Reporting Form (form and directions available at the programmatic permit website). Reporting forms are completed by the Washington State Ferries, Terminal Engineering Environmental Office. The forms should identify BMPs that do not work and new BMPs that work well.

Annual monitoring reports are also required and prepared separately as described in Appendix A. In general, these include a field form and chain of custody form prepared by the person responsible for sample collection. The monitoring file should also contain a copy of the Notification letter sent to Ecology and WDFW pertaining to the scheduled bridge washing.

**WSDOT's End of Year Report to Ecology and WDFW**

Appendix F and S3.B, specify information the WSDOT Environmental Services Office (ESO) must submit to the WDFW Habitat program and Ecology SEA program in the annual report. ESO will coordinate with the WSF, Terminal Engineering Environmental Office to submit annual project reports by January 31. ESO will submit a report even if no work was done.

## Emergency reporting

Distressed or dead fish and water quality problems must be reported to the regional WDFW and Ecology offices below.

### Ecology Regional Contact Information:

<b>Southwest Region</b> P.O. Box 47775 Olympia, WA 98504-7775 Fax # 360-407-6305  Deborah Cornett - supervisor for water quality inspectors/construction <a href="mailto:dcorn461@ecy.wa.gov">dcorn461@ecy.wa.gov</a> . 360-407-7269  Margaret Hill - water quality inspector <a href="mailto:mhill461@ecy.wa.gov">mhill461@ecy.wa.gov</a> . 360-407-0246  Janet Boyd - water quality inspector <a href="mailto:jboy461@ecy.wa.gov">jboy461@ecy.wa.gov</a> . 360-407-0245  Betsy Dickes - water quality inspector <a href="mailto:bedi461@ecy.wa.gov">bedi461@ecy.wa.gov</a> . 360-407-6283  Rusty Post - water quality inspector (Vancouver field office) <a href="mailto:rpos461@ecy.wa.gov">rpos461@ecy.wa.gov</a> . 360-690-4787	<b>Northwest Region</b> 3190 160th Ave SE Bellevue, WA 9808-5452 Fax # 425-649-7098  Don Seeberger - Unit Supervisor for the Water Quality Inspectors/Construction <a href="mailto:dsee461@ecy.wa.gov">dsee461@ecy.wa.gov</a> . 425-649-4424  John Drabek - supervisor for the water quality inspectors/industrial unit  Note - John's group works pretty closely with Don's group - some overlap so John is listed more of a backup but should be included in all e-mail notifications. <a href="mailto:jdra461@ecy.wa.gov">jdra461@ecy.wa.gov</a> . 425-649-7293
<b>Central Region</b> 15 West Yakima Ave Suite 200 Yakima, WA 98902-3452 Fax # 509-575-2809  Jeff Lewis - supervisor for water quality inspectors <a href="mailto:jlew461@ecy.wa.gov">jlew461@ecy.wa.gov</a> . 509-454-7207  Ray Latham - water quality inspector <a href="mailto:rlat461@ecy.wa.gov">rlat461@ecy.wa.gov</a> . 509-575-2807  Terry Whittmeier <a href="mailto:twit461@ecy.wa.gov">twit461@ecy.wa.gov</a> . 509-574-3991	<b>Eastern Region</b> N 4601 Monroe Spokane, WA 99205-1295 Fax # 509-329-3570  Lenox Bramble (called Len) - supervisor for water quality permit writers <a href="mailto:lbra461@ecy.wa.gov">lbra461@ecy.wa.gov</a> . 509-329-3504  Mike Hepp - water quality inspector <a href="mailto:mhep461@ecy.wa.gov">mhep461@ecy.wa.gov</a> . 509-329-3536

### Department of Fish and Wildlife Contact Information:

Region 1 – Spokane: 509-456-4082	Region 4 – Mill Creek: 425-775-1311
Region 2 - Ephrata: 509-754-4624	Region 5 – Vancouver: 360-906-6700
Region 3 – Yakima: 509-575-2740	Region 6 – Montesano: 360-249-4628

